

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Santee National Wildlife Refuge

2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148 Phone: (803) 478-2217

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Website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/santee/visit-us/activities/hunting>

We are foregoing the Bluff Unit “Family, Friends and Kids Hunt” and converting to a "Youth Only Deer Hunt" to instill hunting traditions in youth. A Quota Deer Hunt Application must be submitted during August 1 – September 2 to participate in this special hunt. You may stop by, call, or email to get an application. Completed applications must be returned to the Refuge by September 2, 2024. Up to 12 applicants will be randomly selected for each of the 4 hunt dates: October 25-26, 202 mornings and evenings of each day.

PLEASE NOTE: THE REFUGE IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE DEER QUOTA PROGRAM AND WILL NO LONGER PROVIDE DEER TAGS TO HUNTERS. ALL DEER HARVESTED ON THE REFUGE MUST BE TAGGED WITH SCDNR PERSONALLY- ISSUED TAGS AT THE POINT OF KILL.

The following rules apply for the “Youth Only Deer Hunt”:

- Each hunting party must include a youth (age 10-17 years old) and an adult at least 21 years old with a valid hunting license. Anyone born after June 30, 1979, must complete a hunter education course to participate, including youth age 10-17.
- **ONLY** youth may possess and discharge a firearm and harvest deer.
- Valid hunting license and hunter education card should be in the hunter’s possession while hunting, and may be checked while on the Refuge
- Legal weapons for these hunts include muzzleloaders or shotguns with slugs
- The bag limit for each youth is **two** deer per day. Hunters may also harvest feral hogs as incidental take.
- Fixed, two-person ladder stands will be provided for hunters with the youth and adult hunting from the same stand. Travel to/from the designated deer stands will be provided by Refuge staff
- 500 square inches of fluorescent orange is required above the waist. Remember to bring an orange hat and orange vest.
- Hunters are required to follow the Santee National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations and Permit 2025-2026.
- **All participants must arrive at the Refuge by 5:30 a.m. on October 25/26 for the morning hunts and by 2:30 p.m. for the evening hunts. The Check-in Location will be at the end of Fort Watson Road, pass the rotary, keep right, to the parking lot near the Wrights Bluff trailhead.** Santee NWR, Bluff Unit, is located at 2125 Fort Watson Rd. Summerton, SC 29148, off Hwy. 15/301 (I-95, exit 102)
- Snack bags will be provided before the hunt.

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